I HAVE COME TO SET THE WORLD ON FIRE

-Luke 12:49
Matthew 9:35–38 describes Jesus moving through towns and villages with power—teaching, preaching, and healing EVERY disease and sickness. But in v.36 he turns a corner, looks upon a sea of people burdened and oppressed. Jesus’ guts twist with compassion as he looks out: He can’t reach everyone; he has eschewed his divinity. So he turns to his disciples. He doesn’t tell the disciples to enter the villages and advertise better to get bigger crowds listening to his preaching. He doesn’t say to research flashier programs to attract more people on fewer resources. He doesn’t even suggest being at peace and accepting the situation.

He is specific about what he wants: He wants MORE WORKERS in the fields. He seeks people to join him in loving with the divine love of the Father—more people to shepherd the crowd.

I am excited to tell you that your support for The Evangelical Catholic is sending more Catholic workers into the harvest-filled fields of the world, equipped to help people encounter and grow in Jesus.

Last year, our staff in Wisconsin spent over 5,200 hours inspiring, training, and supporting parishes and campus ministries to launch dynamic movements of lay evangelization in 65 different communities. Last spring, we equipped over 750 workers to reach almost 4,000 people across the country.

This year, we are expanding, reaching more parishes, campus ministries, Spanish-speaking communities, and military installations worldwide. We are also developing new tools for Catholics in the pews: practical, engaging media to satisfy an awakening, burning curiosity about Jesus.

Thank you for your generous support and friendship in this work. What a joy to have our guts wrenched with Jesus and answer wholeheartedly his prayer for more workers!

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

“I dream of the day when the great sleeping giant that is the laity of the Catholic Church WAKES UP.”
Joining forces with the Office of Evangelization of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, has given the EC greater opportunities to support vibrant evangelism. Military service removes men and women from the familiar, from family and friends, but the Catholic Church feels no physical boundaries and stays present for them. Through Reach More™, the EC forms and trains Catholic military personnel as missionary disciples and helps unite servicemen and women in faith, while forming these natural leaders, unleashing more of the inherent potential of trained military personnel to be life-long catalysts for evangelization. The REACH MORE™ process brings individualized, immersive coaching in evangelization to bases worldwide.

The EC’s process is so fitting to the lay vocation within the Church, . . . especially in the military setting, . . . where lay men and women have no other option than to build relationships person to person.

CASSANDRA BUSTAMANTE, ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES
TAKING IT TO THE PEWS

REACH MORE™

ON-SITE

The most common option for complex ministries seeking full-on support. Dedicated consultants work with ministries each week remotely, plus they spend multiple days on-site each year.

CAMPAIGN

Developed for ministries who do not need such deep infiltration and/or already have invested in other programs, REACH MORE™ Campaign focuses on just launching the movement. EC consultants visit twice, first strategically working with the staff to lay a vision and second to launch a ministry-wide campaign for discipleship.

ONLINE

Developed for less complex ministries, EC coaches lead weekly video conference calls to guide local staff members and leaders through the process of forming and training laity to launch movements of evangelization.

Contact us if you would like to discuss how The Evangelical Catholic can work with you to transform your parish:
ec@evangelicalcatholic.org
(608)-820-1288

“You never know whose heart you’re touching,” Tara Guido of St. Lawrence the Martyr in Chester, New Jersey, says as she describes her evangelization small group, her voice ringing with a dynamic sincerity that transcends her words in explaining why her evangelical small group has flourished as it has.

Before participating in the Evangelical Catholic’s REACH MORE™ training, Tara had not led a small group. She’d presented at retreats and taught faith formation, and she teaches youngsters at a Catholic school, but small groups were uncharted territory. With REACH MORE™ training, she launched into a new kind of fruitfulness in evangelization as a small group leader.

Facing empty nests and returning to public work, the members of Tara’s group find themselves asking: How does faith change as children grow up? As mothers, the women who gather in Tara’s home for prayerful sharing have found their faith maturing, their identities changing. Exploring these changes with others facing similar metamorphoses strengthens the women. One committed Mass-goer, who never receives Communion, explained she’s not Catholic, but she is committed to rearing her child Catholic. A friend of a friend joined the group, bringing her Biblical knowledge as a member of a Congregationalist church. A woman who never talked about her own faith is now the first to respond to group emails.

The group has grown beyond simply attending the weekly small group meetings. Members now meet each other for parish events, including opportunities to hear EC staff members speak, retreats, healing Masses, Rosary prayers, and Adoration. Like most of America, everyone is busy, but the group prioritizes time together, sharing the Scriptures, and supporting each other in prayer.

As the leader, Tara continues to diligently prepare and to pray that each of her small group members grows in their daily connection to Jesus in prayer. The group consistently focuses on the challenge of applying Scripture to life each week. Through REACH MORE™, Tara truly has reached women in her parish’s pews and even across the “divide” to those of other faith traditions.